

H.R. 3706- "An Act to Amend title 5, United States Code, to make the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.,

a legal public holiday." November 2, 1983

On November 2, 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed H.R. 3706, officially creating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as a federal holiday. The federal holiday established that Martin Luther King, Jr. Day would be nationally commemorated and observed as a holiday for federal employees. As with all federal holidays, state governing bodies and private employers can determine whether or not to close offices in honor of the federal holiday.



ENGAGE

EXCITE

EDUCATE

coolding the section of the section Rinety-eighth Congress of the United States of America AT THE FIRST SESSION ad held at the City of Washington on Monday, the third day of January, one thousand nine hundred and eighty-three In Act al title 5, United States Code, to make the birthday of 3 the Senate and House of serica in Congress assemble tates Code, is amended by ing to New Year Martin Luther amendment made by the first section o in the first January 1 that occurs after ing the date of the enactment of this Act. Themas 8 on ther of the House of Represent Vice President of the United St. APPROVED NOV - 2 1983 Louald Reaga Document courtesy of Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Archives

## **Document Excerpt:**

## **Questions:**

1. What is the difference between a bill and an act?

Take a look at "H.R. 3706" and answer the following questions:

- 2. Did this act originate in the House of Representatives or the Senate? How do you know this?
- 3. List three adjectives to describe how this act looks.
- 4. How many sections are in the act?
- 5. List the names of two people who signed the act.
- 6. When was Martin Luther King, Jr. Day first observed?

**Background Research:** Read the additional documents online. How many members of Congress voted in favor of the act? How many voted against? What were the reasons for voting against the act?

## Connections to California State Standards:

11.10- Students analyze the development of federal civil rights and voting rights.

12.3- Students evaluate and take and defend positions on what the fundamental values and principles of society are, their interdependence, and the meaning and importance of those values and principles for a free society.

12.4- Students analyze the unique roles and responsibilities of the three branches of government as established by the U.S. Constitution.



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